



**Jack Lechner Jr., president of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, when he was in the service. Above right, Quartermaster Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Vidal, Quartermaster Gen. McBride and Lechner at his induction ceremony for the quartermaster Hall of Fame. Lechner is a member of the ICCFA Veterans Committee.**

**■ Jack Lechner Jr., president of CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE, Cincinnati, Ohio, was recently inducted into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Hall of Fame.** Lechner was a practicing funeral director for 10 years before enlisting in the US Army as an infantryman. He was commissioned as a quartermaster officer after graduating from Officer Candidate School. He earned a bachelor's degree in mortuary science from CCMS through the Army's degree completion program.

He holds a master's degree in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology and a master's degree in national resource strategy, supply chain concentration, from National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

His command positions are in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment as troop commander and support squadron commander, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as executive officer, deputy superintendent, and superintendent at Arlington National Cemetery, both as a colonel and a member of the senior executive service. His staff positions are in the 11th ACR, 75th Ranger Regiment, 3ID, Defense Logistics Agency, Human Resources Command, and as an instructor in the Aerial Delivery and Material Management Department (Rigger). He was appointed CCMS president and CEO in 2016.

The Hall of Fame recognizes retired military and civilians who have made lasting, significant contributions to the Quartermaster Corps; there are fewer than 300



inductees. The permanent display of Quartermaster Hall of Fame inductees includes each inductee's name, their photograph and a narrative of their major achievements at the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia. Mortuary Affairs is part of the Quartermaster Corps.

**■ CANA, Wheeling, Illinois, has released its latest Annual Statistics Report** featuring final 2017 cremation data, newly released 2018 data and projections to 2023. Using figures primarily obtained through state and provincial governments in the United States and Canada, CANA has determined the annual percentage of cremations to deaths and forecasts future cremation percentages.

CANA has conducted extensive research on the growth rate of cremation. The research, originally published in 2017, revealed that when the cremation growth rate over time is measured, an interesting pattern develops. While previous research indicated that cremation rates would continue to rise, the speed of that growth in 2018 was somewhat surprising. As the cremation rate climbs to or exceeds 50 percent in individual states, the national rate grows more quickly.

While CANA has traditionally been conservative in its projections, this difference is greater than usual. CANA anticipates this trend to continue until the national rate exceeds 60 percent, when the cremation rate growth is expected to start showing signs of tapering downward. At 53.4 percent, the United States is squarely in the rapid growth period. □

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Admission to ICCFA membership normally requires a majority vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the executive committee. The names of all applicants must be published in this magazine. ICCFA members objecting to an application must do so in writing to the ICCFA executive director within 45 days of publication. In the event of an objection, the executive committee will conduct an inquiry. If an applicant is rejected, they will be granted an appeal upon written request. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

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